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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 22 Sept. 1954

SUBJECT Electricity, Water, and Gas Shortages
in Stalinogrod (Katowice)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Electricity

With the expansion of industry and the increase in population, the city of Stalinogrod (Katowice) suffered shortages of electricity. Previously it had been more frequent, but in 1954, about once a week, in one or more sections of the city, the electricity for civilian use would be turned off for about two to four hours, usually after working hours, between 1600 and 2200 hours. Every home had candles for these occasions.

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or electrical power was inadequate for both civilian and industrial use, and so the civilians had to be occasionally cut off in order to supply industry's needs. Nevertheless, there had been occasions when the supply was inadequate for industry as well. "Baildon" Steel Works, monthly production plans were not met on two occasions due to insufficient electrical power. The authorities of the city and voivodship accused people of using too much current and a constant campaign for conserving electrical energy was carried on. Signs and other announcements directed (not requested) people to conserve electricity, and the use of electrical appliances was forbidden between the hours of 1600 and 2200. The announcements threatened people with 100 to 300 zlotys penalties and "controlling" visits were made to discover offenders. did not know any details on the type or amount of electrical power used in this area but stated that there was much waste of power in industry. Swing shifts and night shifts in factories had all the lights burning constantly regardless of need; and while the maximum production time of machines and equipment was from three to five hours on an eight-hour shift, they were usually allowed to run full blast for the full eight hours.

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Water

2. The shortage of water in the Stalinogrod area, due to the expanding industry and the increase in the population, began about 1948 or 1949 and continued through [redacted] January 1955). The shortages were most serious in the vicinities of the northern part of Kosciuszki Street, Kochanowski Street, Miarki Plac (Square), Kopernika Street, Jagielonska Street, Sienkiewicza Street, and many [redacted] Throughout 1954, [redacted] in the "Baildon" Steel works, water was collected in buckets in the early morning for use throughout the day, since the water was turned off later in the day or the pressure was inadequate to reach other than production departments in the factory. In a good many homes in the city, water was turned on only for certain periods of the day and it was collected in bath tubs and other containers. In many of these homes the water was dirty due to inefficient filtering.
1. To remedy this shortage, some minor efforts and improvements may have been made, but the serious project to solve this water shortage was the construction of the Goczalkowice (N 49-57, E 18-58) reservoir and filtering plant. Construction of this reservoir began in 1950, and its completion was to take place sometime in 1955. It was announced publicly that this reservoir would supply seven cubic meters of water per second and would be able to cope with all industrial and civilian water needs for the Stalinogrod area. From the Investment Bank of Stalinogrod which financed the investment, [redacted] the reservoir would actually supply six cubic meters of water per second and that one and one-half million slotys was allotted for 1952 for current expenses ("eksploatacja") like construction workers' salaries, etc.. [redacted] this figure was later increased and that these amounts were minor in comparison to other amounts expended on the investment. The bank financing the investment originally handled the pertinent documents in one of its confidential departments, but in 1953, the project was transferred to its "Secret Investments Department." Both the central and voivodship provincial (terenowy) authorities were involved in the planning and realization of this project.
- However, in 1951 or 1952, [redacted] Professor Maksymilian Jozef Ziomek, a statistician-economist, told [redacted] that even the construction of the Goczalkowice reservoir would not take care of the water needs for this expanded industrial area. In 1954, public announcements were made that the reservoir would take care of industrial needs only. In the meantime, the authorities (Voivodship Commission for Economic Planning, Presidium of the Voivodship National Council, and the State Water Works) were becoming more aware of the unsolved problem and began discussing possible additional sources of water. Professor Ziomek was consulted in these discussions, and he was commissioned to do a historical and current study of the water problem in Silesia. He was given all the available German and Polish archives dating back about 100 years. [redacted]
- [redacted] it was possible that a site for another dam had been selected. [redacted] the site was located in the vicinity of Radiborz (N 50-05, E 18-12) along the Oder and Olza Rivers, the latter being on the Czech border. This site was considered as an alternate site at the time the Goczalkowice area was chosen for the construction of a dam.

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Gas

. In the southern part of Stalinogrod, the gas supply was inadequate. The pressure was sometimes too low or at times the supply would be turned off completely for an hour or two. This occurred almost daily in the winter time; and at the home of source's father-in-law on Kilinskiego Street, breakfast very often had to be made on a stove fire.

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